

**RE: Follow-up interview request from Milwaukee Journal Sentinel**

Arnold, Melaney &lt;[REDACTED]&gt;

Fri 10/4/2019 2:46 PM

To: Diedrich, John &lt;John.Diedrich@jrn.com&gt;

Cc: Crowe, Kevin &lt;kcrowe@usatoday.com&gt;

John ~

Hospitals that report bypass are required to enter that information, as well as the reason for bypass, into EMResource, an online reporting system seen by hospitals, EMS systems, and ambulance providers. IDPH will reach out to a hospital to investigate further if it identifies a pattern of a significant amount of type on bypass, if the bypass is out of the norm, if there is a cluster of hospitals on bypass, or there is reason to believe there is a violation of regulations. As you mentioned, IDPH issue four letters dated March 7, 2018 to the hospitals with the top four highest cumulative bypass totals for Illinois hospitals with emergency departments. Northwestern Memorial Hospital, University of Chicago Medical Center, Advocate Christ Medical Center, Franciscan Health Olympia Fields. IDPH requested plans of correction from these hospitals and worked with them during implementation of corrective actions. Letters concerning bypass were not issued in 2017 as bypass had not been as closely monitored until Ms. Stein-Spencer returned to the EMS Division as Acting Division Chief. Most recently, IDPH issued a letter to Advocate Christ in September 2019, and contacted Northwestern in September 2019 with concerns about the amount of time on bypass. IDPH has been working closely with both hospitals. IDPH takes hospital bypass very seriously and will continue hospital bypass data closely. Similar to other requests from media for bypass documents, please submit a FOIA request online at <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/foia>.



Hi Melaney,

Thanks for getting back to us. Please find some of our questions arising from our analysis of the bypass data below. Please let us know when Ms. Stein-Spencer is available for a phone interview.

Thanks,  
John

**John Diedrich***Investigative Reporter*[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel | USA TODAY Network](#)

414-224-2408 (direct)

[jdiedrich@journalsentinel.com](mailto:jdiedrich@journalsentinel.com)

@john\_diedrich